Architectural Thesis

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A MUNICIPAL BUILDING

BY

GEORGE WILLIAM VAN METER

THESIS FOR DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
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A Municipal Building.

The subject of this thesis was the planning and designing of a municipal building which would be monumental in character and at the same time provide for all the departments of administration in a city of 100,000 population.

In studying the requirements for such a building the largest and therefore the governing features of the plan were first considered and were fixed as follows:

An auditorium to seat at least 1000 people for musical festivals, political gatherings, mass meetings of various sorts, commencement programs, ect. A council chamber of at least 2500 square feet floor area and a police court equally as large. A large banquet hall and an examining room in connection with the offices of the school superintendent for the holding of teachers examinations

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and the meeting of the school board.

Having studied the plan with a view principally to provide for these five large areas and having previously decided on the amount of space required for the other various rooms and offices it was next necessary to arrange the various rooms according to their importance.

It seemed imperative that so large an auditorium should be placed on the first floor, also those offices which are most frequently visited by the public, such as comptroller, treasurer, assessor, collector, chief of police, fire marshall ect.

The difficulty with this program was not so much in arranging floor spaces for these different departments but in producing a symetrical plan; and the only logical solution seemed to be in making the auditorium the central feature and grouping the other departments around it.

On account of the business of the comptroller being so closely allied with that of the treasurer, their

working rooms were placed together, and to each was assigned a private room directly off the general working room.

The east and west wings on the second floor were assigned to the council chamber and police court respectfully. These rooms were each made thirty six by sixty eight feet and carried up through the third floor. Immediately off the north end of the council chamber two rooms were assigned to the city clerk while off the other end of the council chamber was placed the mayor's suite of rooms. The judge's rooms were assigned in the same relation to the police court as the clerks were to the council chamber. In the south east corner on this floor ample room has been given to the board of public affairs and health officers.

As the council chamber and police court each extend up through the third floor there is a limited amount of space on this floor, but up here desirable rooms for the city engineer,

electrician, boiler inspector, and building inspector have been assigned besides a suite of rooms for the superintendent of schools in connection with the large examination room.

The largest part of the basement floor is arranged for the city jail, but but down here have also been placed the offices of the street superintendent and sewer department with their store rooms besides some other general store rooms.

Four broad flights of stairs, located practically at the four corners of the building extend from the basement to the top floor, and supplement the service provided by two elevators located at either side the main entrance to the auditorium, extending from the basement to the top of the building.

Provision has been made and space assigned for public and private toilets, closets, vaults, ect. There are 8875-2 square feet of floor area in the building; its extreme dimentions being 178 feet by 178 feet the building should occupy a lot at least 306

feet square.

It is intended that the building shall be faced throughout with some good quality of white lime stone with terra-cotta cornice, pilasters and engaged columns. The interior frame will be steel and tile construction making the building absolutely fire proof.

The cubical contents of the building are 1,834,208 feet and the cost would be approximately $350,000.